

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 03557 201322Z

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TBIO, DA

SUBJECT: CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

REF: A. STATE A-8894, B. CPH 243

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED RATIFICATION STATUS OF
CONVENTION WITH BOTH FONOFF AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY,
URGING ACTION BE TAKEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WERE
TOLD THAT NECESSARY DOMESTIC LEGISLATION MUST PRECEDE
CONVENTION RATIFICATION. LEGISLATION WAS SUBMITTED
TO THE PARLIAMENT IN NOVEMBER 1974 AS AN AMENDMENT
TO THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE ACT OF 1972. THE
AMENDMENT, HOWEVER, ALSO INCLUDES NUMEROUS OTHER
CHANGES OF A PURELY DOMESTIC NATURE, SOME OF WHICH
ARE MILDLY CONTROVERSIAL. PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION
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PAGE 02 COPENH 03557 201322Z

WAS INTERRUPTED BY CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

JANUARY 9, 1975. BILL WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO BE
RESUBMITTED TO NEW PARLIAMENT AFTER THAT DATE.

2. ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY (KOESTER) BELIEVES THAT,
UNLES BILL BECOMES CONTROVERSIAL, PARLIAMENT WILL RATIFY BY
JUNE, PERMITTING LAW TO BE PROMULGATED BY EARLY FALL. SHOULD
THERE BE PROBLEMS, BILL MIGHT BE CARRIED OVER UNTIL
1976. AT THIS STAGE, KOESTER PREFERRED NOT TO
SPECULATE ON DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY WHICH MIGHT BE
EXPECTED ON DOMESTIC MEASURES BUT SAID THAT, IN ANY
EVENT, CONVENTION ITSELF IS NOT CONTROVERSIAL.

3. BOTH FONOFF AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY TOLD US OF
AN EC EXPERTS MEETING HELD IN BRUSSELS DECEMBER 12
AT WHICH AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO
COUNCIL OF PERMANENT REPS (COREPER) THAT COMMUNITY
RATIFY CONVENTION EN BLOC IN DECEMBER 1975. KOESTER
NOTED THAT GERMANY, FRANCE, BELGIUM, IRELAND AND,
POSSIBLY, NETHERLANDS HAVE PROBLEM SIMILAR TO DENMARK
IN OBTAINING DOMESTIC LEGISLATION PRIOR TO RATI-
FICATION OF CONVENTION. THEY ALL FELT THAT END OF
1975 WAS REASONABLE DATE TO EXPECT COMPLETION OF
LEGISLATIVE AND RATIFICATION PROCESSES. AT THE EC
MEETING, UK RESERVED IN ITS POSITION, ACCORDING TO
KOESTER, BECAUSE IT DOES NOT NEED DOMESTIC LEGI-
SLATION AND IS BEING PRESSURED BY INTEREST GROUPS
TO RATIFY AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.
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